

Message Text

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ORIGIN SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 L-02 JUSE-00 SCA-01 VO-03 /017 R

DRAFTED BY SCA:SCS:RJBOYLAN:GJL

APPROVED BY SCA:SCS:LELANE

EA/TB: FJTATU(SUB)

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P 232150Z MAY 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 121446

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN: (SAUERS V. ALASKA BARGE AND TRANSPORT, ET AL.)

SUBJECT: ATTENDANCE OF WITNESS: LE VAN MINH

REF: BANGKOK 9457

1. MAIN STUMBLING BLOCK APPEARS TO BE MINH'S RELUCTANCE TO LEAVE WITHOUT ASSURANCE HE WILL BE ABLE TO REJOIN HIS VESSEL. BECAUSE OF MINH'S IMPORTANCE TO THE GOVERNMENT'S CASE, EMBASSY REQUESTED: (A) TO DETERMINE (POSSIBLY FROM SALOMON) HOW LONG TUG SAIGON 240 WILL REMAIN OFF COAST OF THAILAND, AND IF ITS DEPARTURE IS NOT IMMINENT, (B) TO APPROACH THE APPROPRIATE THAI AUTHORITIES WITH A REQUEST THAT THEY GUARANTEE MINH THE RIGHT TO RE-ENTER THAILAND AFTER HIS TESTIMONY FOR THE SOLE PURPOSE OF REJOINING HIS BOAT.

2. YOU MAY WISH TO STRESS TO GOT THAT MINH'S DESIRE TO RETURN TO VIETNAM RATHER THAN TO STAY IN THE UNITED STATES LEADS US TO MAKE THIS REQUEST. BECAUSE OF THIS DESIRE, IT IS UNLIKELY HE WOULD BECOME A BURDEN ON THAILAND IF PERMITTED TO RE-ENTER AND JOIN HIS TUG AFTER COMPLETION OF HIS TESTIMONY.

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3. ATTORNEY GWATKIN ANTICIPATES THAT MINH WILL BE ABLE

COMPLETE TESTIMONY AND RETURN TO THAILAND BY JUNE 2 PROVIDED HE IS IN U.S. BY MAY 27. IF TUG WILL BE IN PORT UNTIL FIRST WEEK IN JUNE, AND IF THAI GOVT WILL PERMIT MINH TO RE-ENTER, PLEASE APPROACH MINH TO SEE IF HE WILL CHANGE HIS MIND. (FYI: GWATKIN DOES NOT WISH TO JEOPARDIZE MINH'S FUTURE IN HIS HOMELAND, AND THEREFORE ONLY WANTS MINH IF IT WILL NOT BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE LATTER. END FYI)

4. IF MINH WILL NOT CHANGE MIND, OR GOT WILL NOT ALLOW HIM TO RETURN TO HIS SHIP, OR VESSEL WILL BE LEAVING BEFORE MINH GETS BACK, PLEASE ADVISE DEPT., BEFORE TUESDAY IF POSSIBLE. IF SUBJECT CANNOT COME FOR FIRST OR SECOND REASON, PLEASE ADVISE DEPT. RE AVAILABILITY OF STENOGRAPHIC REPORTERS IN THAILAND WHO COULD TAKE SUBJECT'S TESTIMONY AT A DEPOSITION. INGERSOLL

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